

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims replaces all prior versions of claims in the application.

1. (Original): A solvent for dissolving nucleic acid, characterized by comprising an ionic liquid which can dissolve nucleic acid.

2. (Original): The solvent for dissolving nucleic acid of claim 1 which is characterized in that the ionic liquid is composed of at least one cation selected from among ammonium cations, imidazolium cations and pyridinium cations.

3. (Original): The solvent for dissolving nucleic acid of claim 1 or 2 which is characterized in that the ionic liquid is composed of an anion which is a halide ion or a carboxylic acid ion having a total of 1 to 3 carbons.

4. (Original): The solvent for dissolving nucleic acid of claim 1 which is characterized in that the ionic liquid is a neutralized ionic liquid.

5. (Currently Amended): The solvent for dissolving nucleic acid of ~~any one of claims 1 to 4~~ claim 1 or 2 which is characterized by being adapted to preserve nucleic acid or to react nucleic acid.

Preliminary Amendment
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6. (Original): A nucleic acid-containing solution, characterized by comprising nucleic acid dissolved in an ionic liquid.
7. (Original): A method for preserving nucleic acid, characterized by preserving nucleic acid in a dissolved state within an ionic liquid.